

Fact Sheet: Poverty and Health in Wisconsin

Poverty status is a way of determining which people do not have enough income to meet their basic needs, such as food, housing, clothing and transportation.

The Federal Poverty Line (FPL) is based on the number of people in a household and their annual money income. In 2004, the Federal Poverty Line for a household of four was \$18,850. You were poor if you lived in a household of four and total household income for the year was less than \$18,850.

Some programs use a percentage of the FPL for eligibility determination. BadgerCare, for example, uses 200% FPL as an eligibility threshold. For a household of four in 2004, 200% FPL was \$37,700.

Household Size	2004 Federal Poverty Line
1	\$9,310
2	\$12,490
3	\$15,670
4	\$18,850
5	\$22,030
6	\$25,210

Source: *Federal Register*, Vol. 69, No. 30, February 13, 2004.

Definitions for a household of four

Poor:

Less than 100% FPL = Less than \$18,850 per year

Near-poor:

100%-199% FPL = \$18,850-\$37,699 per year

Poverty in Wisconsin

In 2004, about 9% of Wisconsin's residents lived in households with annual incomes below the Federal Poverty Line. This was a total of **489,000 poor people** in Wisconsin. Another 940,000 residents (18%) were **near-poor**, with annual incomes between 100% and 199% FPL.

Some population groups are more likely to be poor than others.

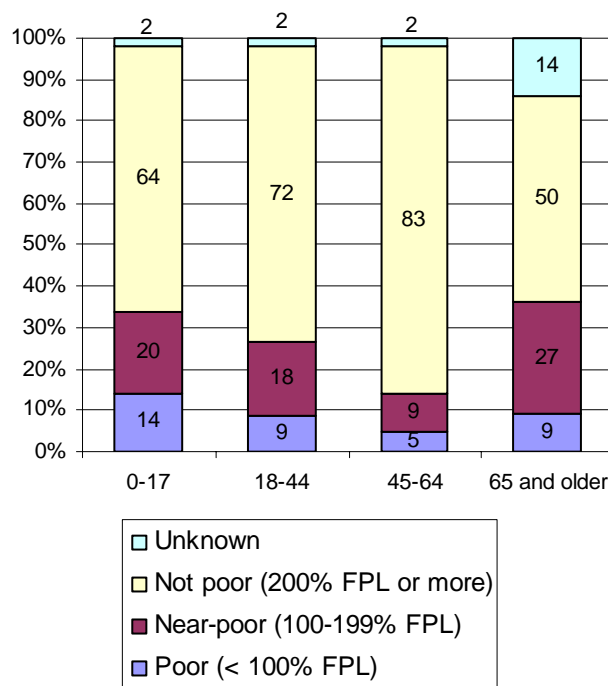
A larger percentage of children live in poor households than adults or the elderly. Fourteen percent of children were living in households that had incomes below 100% FPL (Figure 1).

Wisconsin's minority race and ethnic groups have higher poverty rates than the majority white non-Hispanic population. The percentage in poverty among African-Americans and Hispanics was four times the percentage among whites (Figure 2).

Employed adults have lower poverty rates than adults who are not in the labor force. Overall, 5% of employed adults, ages 18-64, were poor in 2004, while 18% of those not in the labor force were poor.

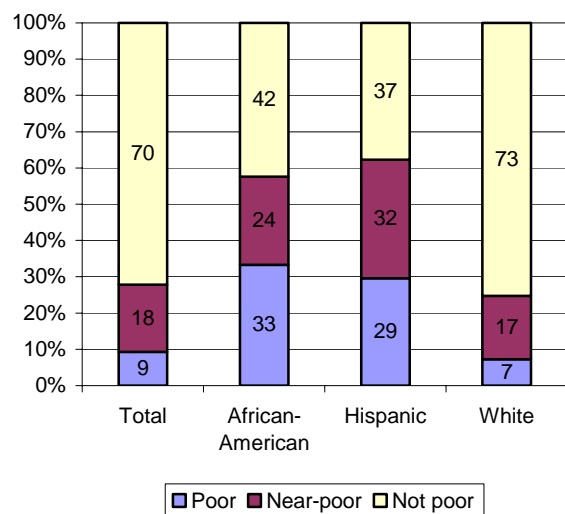
People with less education tend to have higher poverty rates. Among adults 25 years and older who had not completed a high school diploma, 30% were poor. Only 1% of adults who had completed a college degree were poor.

Figure 1. Poverty Status by Age, Wisconsin 2004



Source: 2004 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services.

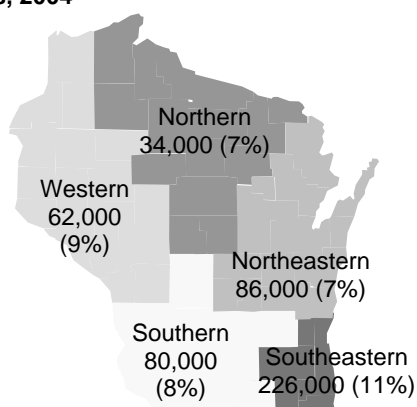
Figure 2. Poverty Status by Race and Ethnicity, Wisconsin 2004



Source: 2004 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services.

The Southeastern Region had a higher percentage of poor people than the other Regions, mainly due to high poverty rates in the City of Milwaukee (Figure 3). Overall, 26% of City residents were poor in 2004. Thirty-nine percent of Milwaukee children were poor and 26% were near-poor.

Figure 3. Number (and Percent) in Poverty in the DHFS Regions, 2004



Source: 2004 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services.

Over one-third of Wisconsin's poor children lived in the City of Milwaukee. Milwaukee ranked fourth highest among U.S. cities on the child poverty rate (U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey).

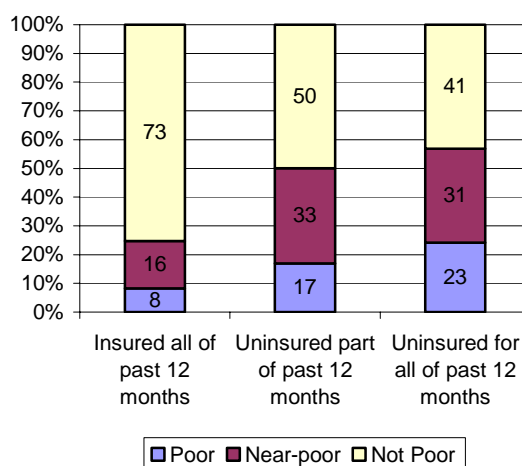
Poverty and Health in Wisconsin

Poor health and less access to health care are both more common among poor and near-poor people than among higher-income people.

About 10% of Wisconsin residents were in fair or poor health in 2004. Among poor residents, however, 24% were in fair or poor health, compared to 8% among higher-income people.

Poverty rates were much higher among people without health insurance. The percent in poverty was 17% among those uninsured during part of the past 12 months, 23% among those uninsured for all of the past 12 months, and just 8% among those who were insured all of the past 12 months (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Poverty Status by Health Insurance Coverage, Wisconsin 2004



Source: 2004 Family Health Survey, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services.

Several DHFS programs target health care for poor people, such as Medicaid, BadgerCare, lead screening and lead poisoning prevention programs, and Family Care. Healthiest Wisconsin 2010 has a specific objective to increase the proportion of households with incomes above 300% FPL.

Prepared in the Bureau of Health Information and Policy, Division of Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services. May 2006. The Family Health Survey is a statewide random-sample telephone survey. More information is available on the DHFS Web site: <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/stats/familyhealthsurvey.htm>